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THE TESCHEN DISEASE IN THUERINGEN, GDR

Th. Hubrig and H. Ohder, Thueringen
 Vet Research and Animal
 Health Office, Jena

The article describes in detail the outbreak in two widely separated areas in Thueringen, and the diagnosis of the Teschen disease, which they call ansteckende Schweineleahme [infectious swine paralysis]. In one of the areas, the article states, the onslaught of the disease was sudden and violent, and infected 40 communities in two adjoining landkreise within a few weeks. Simultaneously, in an area 100 kilometers away, isolated cases appeared, and then, assuming epidemic proportions, the disease spread from one community to another. In both areas the animals on small farms were affected most seriously.

According to the article, clinical findings indicated that the infected animals were suffering from the Teschen disease. Histological examinations and tests on experimental animals confirmed the diagnosis. Since many swine diseases begin with paralysis, the article notes, differential diagnosis was very important in establishing the true nature of the disease.

The article states that this new outbreak of Teschen disease has been attributed by a great many authors to the purchase of infected animals and to the use of infected meat brought in from disease-ridden areas. The first outbreak of the Teschen disease in Thueringen was also associated with the importation of infected meat.

According to the article, if the disease is to be combated effectively, veterinary police measures as extensive and strict as those employed in cases of swine plague [Pestis suis?] will have to be enforced.

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